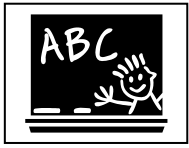


Thomas Russell Junior School

'An expectation of excellence' ofsted June 2014.



Newsletter



Issue No. 32

Headteacher: Mrs S Sharpe

9th June 2017

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION



As you will recall, on 19th May we announced an election for a parent governor, due to Mr Cunningham's departure. This creates a need for someone to take the lead governor role for the very important area of **SAFEGUARDING** involving child protection, Looked After Children and the Government's PREVENT strategy. It is anticipated that the new governor would also be a member of the Finance Committee. In addition, all governors are encouraged to take an interest in general school and governance issues. Nomination Forms are available from the school office or by e-mail request. Please contact Mrs Sharpe if you would like any further information or governors can be contacted directly via governors@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk The closing date for nominations is 16th June 2017.

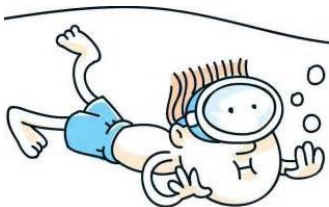
Sports Day

Thank you to everyone who came along to support this marvellous event. The weather was very kind to us and a fantastic day was had by all. Thank you to the staff for their superb team work and organisation, to the Friends and Governors who provided excellent support and to the children for their behaviour, sportsmanship and attitude which made for a thoroughly enjoyable day. Congratulations to Clinton!



Friends Aquathlon – Tuesday 20th June

Don't forget to get your entries in for this popular and well supported event; form attached to this Newsletter. The Friends have put out a request for any helpers to support running stalls for a hour between 4:30 and 7:00, please contact friends@trjs.co.uk for more information. Also any donations of raffle prizes, either from parents or companies with which they have



an association, would be gratefully received. If you're not sure what it's all about - why not come along and support this time? There are always plenty of competitors to cheer on, enjoy the bouncy castle and some of the stalls, then you'll know what it's all about next time and might even want to take part.



Scarecrow Competition

We would like to make a plea for some straw to help with Early Birds' and Night Owls' entry to the Scarecrow Competition for Barton Open Gardens - if anyone has half a bale of straw they could spare, we'd be very grateful. Thank you.



Parent Forum

We have our next Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday 14th June at 9am. Please do let us know if there is anything that you would like to be discussed at the meeting via questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk, or via a Parent Forum representative. Not sure what kind of things we talk about? Why not visit the Parent Forum section of the website to find out more or to read minutes of previous meetings?



Receive Newsletters by e-mail, or ask a question: questions@thomasrussell-junior.staffs.sch.uk

Transition Plans for 2017-2018

In our last Newsletter we announced our **#ready for transition - Year 5&6** project which is now well underway and proving very effective.

We have finalised the remainder of our plans for **Y2-3 Transition** and look forward to the meetings and visits that happen over the next few weeks to introduce our new Infant children (and parents) to Junior School.

This week Y6 staff and children have met with House Learning Mentors, Y7 & 13 students and SENCO, to begin transition to **John Taylor High School**. Y6 Parents will have also noticed we have started setting homework in 'Planner' pages from JTHS, to help the children become more familiar with what to expect.

We have our plans in place for **in-school transition** between year groups for September. Mr Edwards has made the difficult decision that he will be leaving us at the end of the term. Having commuted from Nottingham for a significant time now, he has decided the journey time is just too much and he will be moving to a school closer to home. I am sure parents and children will join me in wishing him all the best and I know his exceptional ICT knowledge and quick sense of humour will be missed!

We held interviews in school on 25th May for this post, and that of Mrs Mosedale who left at Easter. I am pleased to announce we have appointed **Miss Emma Rounds**, a newly qualified teacher from Derby University to teach full time and **Mrs Katie Rollins**, a more experienced teacher who has recently moved to the village, to teach part time. Thank you to the Y4 children and the School Council, who were very helpful in the interview process.

I am very pleased to announce that Governors have agreed to fund the **additional class in every year group for core subjects** again next year. I am sure parents will really appreciate that class sizes of 20-22 is a huge luxury for the pupils, but one that comes at a significant expense and we may not be able to fund such a structure in the following academic year with falling school budgets.

Our structure in school for the 2017-2018 academic year will be as follows:

Y3 - Miss Murfin & Mrs David, with Mrs Gahagan. TAs - Mrs Windsor & Mrs Graves

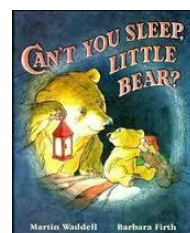
Y4 - Mrs Vardy & Mrs Preston, with Mrs Rollins. TAs - Mrs King & Mrs Capper

Y5 - Mrs Sanders & Miss Rounds, with Mrs Jones. TAs - Mrs Rumsey & Mrs Cozens

Y6 - Miss Press & Miss Marston, with Mrs Kerr-Delworth. TA - Mrs Alcock

As always we will be mixing classes when children move up into the next year groups. Please be reassured that we will take great care when formulating the groupings, taking account of academic ability, friendships, gender balance and a whole host of other features. Please avoid making personal requests, so I can avoid the embarrassment of turning you down - I can promise that we make decisions in the best interests of all the children.

Teddy Bear Sleepover – Barton Library are having a 'Teddy Bear Sleepover' on Friday 16th June. If you would like to take a teddy to the library, read it a night-time story and tuck it in for a sleepover at the Library, please see attached flyer. Junior Jotters will be attending with Miss Murfin. Who knows what adventures the teddies will get up to! Midnight feasts, pillow fights and all sorts of naughtiness, I'm sure!



Our school needs you! Help us win £5,000 of National Book Tokens for the school library - and get £100 for yourself! Just enter the competition online, it only takes a minute: <http://po.st/schools17>

Best wishes, Mrs Sharpe

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